

Please add the following new claim:

-- 4. The vacuum switching chamber as claimed in claim 2, wherein the contact tips are in the form of flat spiral contacts. --

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are now present in this application, with new claim 4 being added by the present Preliminary Amendment. It should be noted that the amendments to original claims 1-3 of the present application are non-narrowing amendments, made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations. For example, amendments have been made to remove reference numerals in the claims; remove the European phrase "characterized in that"; remove multiple dependencies in the claims; and to place claims in a more recognizable U.S. form, including the use of the transitional phrase "comprising" as well as the phrase "wherein". Again, all amendments are non-narrowing and have been made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations.

SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

*OK to enter
07/18/02
JJS*
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.125, a substitute specification has been included in lieu of substitute paragraphs in connection with the present Preliminary Amendment. The substitute specification is submitted in clean form, attached hereto, and is accompanied by a marked-up version showing the changes made to the original specification. The changes have been made in an effort to place the specification in better form for U.S. practice. No new matter has been

added by these changes to the specification. Further, the substitute specification includes paragraph numbers to facilitate amendment practice as requested by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

CONCLUSION

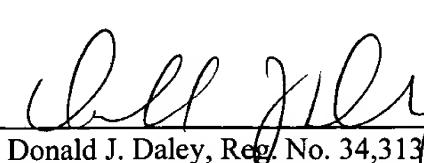
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, an early indication of the allowability of each of claims 1-4 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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